UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24481
25 August 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a facsimile letter dated 19 August 1992 from Mr. Vladimir Šeks, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia and President of the Government's Commission for the United Nations Protection Force.

We kindly request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 19 August 1992 from the Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting according to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 771 (1992) of 13 August 1992, by which the Security Council calls upon States to collate substantiated information in their possession relating to the violations of humanitarian law, and to make this information available to the Council;

Referring to Security Council resolution 770 (1992) of 13 August 1992, by which it demands from all States to facilitate undisturbed delivery of humanitarian assistance wherever needed in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Acting on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia;

I wish to inform you personally, Your Excellency, and the United Nations Security Council about the violations of international humanitarian law as well as about some crucial moments in the implementation of the United Nations peace plan and of activities of the international community whose fulfilment the Republic of Croatia expects. In our view, the conditions have ripened for some urgent actions of the international community which, without requiring new means and special efforts, can contribute exceptionally to the establishment of peace in the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The special reason for this letter is the fact that specific forms of war against the Republic of Croatia have occurred and, by not halting them, it makes the international community jointly responsible for suffering of the civilian population in the territory of the two Republics.

A wider area of the town of Slavonski Brod, territory of the Republic of Croatia outside the zone of the responsibility of the United Nations, under full control of the Croatian authorities has been endangered by special, rarely seen forms of activities by the Serbian aggressor, which are prohibited by international law.

Slavonski Brod is a municipality with approximately 120,000 people and at the present moment with more than 20,000 displaced persons and refugees from the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This area is situated between the United Nations Protected Area Sectors East and West and separated from the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the river Sava as a border. Slavonski Brod and the bridge across the river Sava are the only link with the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in that part and also the place of largest pogrom of Muslim and Croatian populace from that Republic. It has been five months now that the town and its surroundings are daily under general alert and air-raid alerts. From the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina the city constantly comes under artillery attacks using all kinds of weapons, overflights and bombardment by aircraft of former

Yugoslav National Army (JNA). From 23 March up to now the aggressor aircraft flew over the city area 130 times and were active 30 times. Many sorts of forbidden weapons were used; cluster bombs, HVAR 59 mm rockets and surface-to-surface missiles (FROG-7). From well fortified and hidden facilities of the former JNA the Serbs from the occupied territories of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina are attacking the territory of the Republic of Croatia with unlimited quantity of weapons of the former JNA.

The Serbs from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Serbs from the United Nations Protected Area territories in the Republic of Croatia are using the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the attacks on another sovereign State.

The only aim of such an aggression is the destruction of civilian population and destruction of civilian facilities. Sufferings of children, innocent population and refugees are enormous. In the town's hospital, under the conditions of daily bombardment, some 3,500 people underwent the most complex medical treatments. Over 180 civilians, including 43 children, died from the consequences of the attacks. Only in the last 10 days 28 civilians were killed and 98 were wounded. On the day preceding this report more than 200 artillery and tank projectiles fell on the town and 7 civilians were killed.

Civilian population and civilian facilities are the aims of the destruction and demolition. The attacks of the aggressor are carried out indiscriminately through acts of violence and repression, deliberate infliction of injuries and sufferings. Such acts are contrary to the provisions of articles 51 and 52 of the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I). a/

Unprovoked, indiscriminate and savage attacks may result in an economic and ecological catastrophe which could happen if oil facilities on both sides of the river are destroyed. The consequence of that would be a new and terrible suffering of the civilian population and displaced persons. The aggressor condemned to sanctions and oil embargo is capable of doing that. In addition to these atrocities committed in respect of the population of the Republic of Croatia, we would like to point out the sufferings of the civilian population in northern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Apart from the wider area of Gorazde, the area of northern Bosnia and Herzegovina is the area with the biggest suffering of the civilian population including the Muslim displaced persons who had been surrounded by the enemy for many weeks. The situation concerning the fully destroyed places along the road from Bosanski Brod to Sarajevo is completely uncertain.

Therefore, in order to stop unknown sufferings of the civilian population and their homes, because of the violation of all recognized rules of international humanitarian law and the principle of humanity and in order to remove the danger of possible catastrophes we urge that on the basis of

Security Council resolutions 770 (1992) and 771 (1992), in cooperation with the United Nations forces and the forces of regional, European defence organizations, the securing of the corridor for humanitarian aid for the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Slavonski Brod (Bosanski Brod)-Sarajevo route be carried out with military support.

The securing of the above-mentioned corridor, in addition to the possible Split-Sarajevo corridor from the south, would be the cessation of the Serbian aggression from the possible territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards that part of the Republic of Croatia and the securing of the section Slavonski Brod-Sarajevo (approximately the same length as the direction Split-Sarajevo) would result in the cessation of the aggression and would ensure that the badly needed humanitarian aid reaches the northern and central part of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The suggested solution, I am convinced, would contribute to the cessation of the aggression on the Republics of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Republic of Croatia will provide full and comprehensive assistance for all activities of the international community in achieving the mentioned goals.

(Signed) Vladimir ŠEKS
Vice-President of the Government
of the Republic of Croatia
President of the Government's Commission
for UNPROFOR

Notes

a/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 1125, No. 17512.